



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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June 14, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

THIRD STATUS REPORT ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

On January 6, 2009, your Board adopted the Child Care Policy Framework (Framework). This document serves as the third status report and summarizes implementation activities undertaken between late December 2009 and June 9, 2010.

Implementation Highlights

We are pleased to report significant progress in meeting the goals of the Framework.

- **Enrolling Children in Early Childhood Education Services**

Goal 1: Mobilize County Departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care into services aimed at: 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start State Preschool (LACOE-HS) have expanded their collaboration to include Central and East Los Angeles. These areas were targeted so as to take advantage of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funded expansion of Head Start programs.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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During February and March 2010, DCFS offices identified 266 children between three and five years of age who were potentially eligible for Head Start services. Just over 50 percent of these children were already enrolled or participating in a child development program. DCFS and LACOE-HS were successful in enrolling 70 of the remaining 131 children in Head Start programs.

DCFS and LACOE-HS have established a referral partnership with other Head Start agencies in the County. This partnership facilitates the enrollment of DCFS clients into Head Start programs throughout the County. Recruitment is underway for the upcoming program year. DCFS has set a goal to enroll over 1,200 children under the age of five into Head Start and Early Head Start programs throughout the County and is targeting children placed with Foster Family Agencies. In addition, DCFS is working with Foster Family Agencies to identify early education enrollment trends among these agencies.

- **Training Activities**

A number of training activities have been implemented during this period. The Strengthening Families Approach has informed many of these activities. Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (Center), the Strengthening Families Approach focuses on promoting five Protective Factors:

- Parental resilience;
- Social connections;
- Knowledge of parenting and child development;
- Concrete support in times of need; and
- Children's social and emotional development.

Research has shown that these factors can reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect by providing parents with the information and support needed to parent more effectively, even during stressful periods. Three County departments, DCFS, Probation, and Mental Health (DMH), are actively integrating the Strengthening Families Approach and the Protective Factors into their work with children and families. Working within this common framework could facilitate communication and the integration of services across County departments, as well as with community-based organizations.

On March 19, 2010, the Office of Child Care (OCC) joined First 5 LA and the Center in sponsoring a conference on the Strengthening Families Approach to preventing child abuse. This event, which was designed to facilitate relationships across disciplines, was attended by over 120 persons. Participants included representatives from the First 5 LA Partnerships for Families Initiative, DCFS, DMH and community mental

health providers, Probation, and early care and education programs, including Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) participants. We were pleased that a number of Los Angeles Unified School District Early Education Centers who are participating in STEP were in attendance. It is the intent of First 5 LA that this event will be supported by follow-up activities aimed at fostering the integration of the Strengthening Families Approach and relationships across disciplines.

STEP, a child care quality rating and support project underway in eleven communities in this County, also incorporates the Strengthening Families Approach into its rating and training components. In an effort to build the pool of early educators prepared to serve children and families involved with DCFS, DCFS funded the STEP training component. Between January and June 2010, OCC coordinated 50 training sessions attended by over 700 early educators. We were particularly pleased to be able to provide participants with key resource materials, including Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Kits and the Spanish version of the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale.

Between January and June 2010, OCC and LACOE-HS conducted 12 full-day training sessions for Juvenile Deputy Probation Officers. These trainings addressed the importance of early childhood development, the Strengthening Families Approach, the protective factors, healthy brain development, and introduced participants to the complex "system" of early care and education resources. Representatives from Probation, OCC, and LACOE-HS are scheduled to meet and explore how the information presented during the trainings will be sustained and incorporated into the work of the Department.

In January 2010, representatives from DCFS, OCC, and a Board Office, had the opportunity to participate in the Casey Family Programs Symposium in Seattle. This one-day symposium was titled "Applying the Science of Early Childhood Development to State Policy," and participants included representatives from Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Our Los Angeles County team found the information presented by Dr. Jack Shonkoff and others to be both compelling and critically important to share with local policy makers. We are delighted to report that Casey Family Programs is working with a variety of local stakeholders to convene a similar event in Los Angeles in the late fall. We will be updating your Board as plans are finalized.

- **Advancing Public Policies**

Goal 2: Advance public policies at all levels of government, local, State, and Federal, which ensure that children and their parents receive the child care and development and family support services needed to build strong foundations for healthy, productive lives. Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaborations among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

The Governor's proposed budgets, presented in January and May 2010, have dominated implementation activities related to this goal. The OCC has been working with various members of the Chief Executive Office's Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs Office and community-based agencies to respond to these proposals. While the Governor's proposal to eliminate the majority of subsidized child development services has been rejected by the Legislature, the issue of significant service reductions continues. The OCC has compiled data to show the very direct connections between subsidized child care services and employment, local economies, and child outcomes. Four fact sheets on these issues are attached for your information.

Goal 3: Facilitate the capacity of child care and development service providers, publicly and privately funded, to meet the child care and development needs of local families.

Activity related to this goal has been on hold given the State budget crisis.

Conclusion

With your Board's support, the Framework has facilitated innovative collaborations between:

- DCFS and LACOE-HS, resulting in increased numbers of DCFS children becoming enrolled in Head Start programs;
- DCFS and OCC to provide 50 STEP training sessions to over 700 early childhood educators;
- LACOE-HS, OCC, and the Probation Department to train nearly 300 Juvenile Deputy Probation Officers on the Strengthening Families Approach and the system of child care and development services in Los Angeles County; and

- First 5 LA, the Center, and OCC to train a multi-disciplinary audience on the Strengthening Families Approach.

During the upcoming period, efforts will continue to connect families receiving County services to child care development programs and to ensure that appropriate child care and development services are available to meet the needs of children and families in Los Angeles County.

Should your staff have questions regarding this update or the Framework, please let me know or your staff may contact Kathy House at (213) 974-4530, or via e-mail at khouse@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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Attachments (4)

- c Children and Family Services
Probation
First 5 Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start

FACT SHEET

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2010-11:
IMPACT ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVENUE, JOBS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Funding from the State of California for a broad variety of child care and development programs and services has created and supported thousands of jobs in Los Angeles County. The income from these jobs is circulated into the local economy, supporting other businesses. Both income and sales taxes generated from these jobs, in turn, help pay for State government.

As with all jobs, there is a multiplier effect. Jobs in the child care and development sector have a direct and intensified effect as it enables parents to obtain and maintain employment. Parents who rely on subsidized child care and development services to work and support their families are at great risk of losing their employment if these essential services are cut or eliminated. Percentage cuts to programs affect hundreds of these families; **elimination of full-time child care and development services and supports will mean thousands of families will lose their employment and will therefore contribute to a shrinking economy and a decreasing tax base.**

Unlike other workforce reductions where workers may be directed to other job opportunities, severely reducing child care and development services essentially freezes many low to moderate income families out of the workforce entirely. Regardless of what the work is, they need child care. This will have the effect of creating greater demands on unemployment funds, welfare assistance, and many County level health and human services such as emergency health care and child welfare services at a time when these services are also at risk of being restricted or eliminated.

Potential impacts of Governor's Budget Proposals in Los Angeles County:

• Los Angeles County revenues eliminated in Governor's revised budget proposal ⁱ	\$835,000,000
• Number of children (0 - 12 years old) at risk of losing subsidized child care ⁱⁱ	98,337
• Number of agencies, organizations and businesses with reduced revenues ⁱⁱⁱ	109
• Number of subcontracting businesses (child care programs, family child care providers, and individuals) with reduced revenues resulting in decreased purchasing power and tax revenues ^{iv}	22,000
• Number of teachers and other child care workers at-risk of losing their jobs ^v	9,952
• Number of management and other support staff at-risk of losing their jobs ^{vi}	1,395
• Number of parents at-risk of losing child care and development services needed to maintain their jobs ^{vii}	73,753
• Amount of income (purchasing capacity and tax base) lost in addition to the reduced incomes/wages of those supported through child care funds ^{viii}	\$1.47 billion

ⁱ Total amount results from aggregating all allocated funds for Child Care Centers (CCTR), Family Child Care Home Education Networks, and California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) (full-time) as documented in the California Department of Education (CDE) CATS Report (August 2009); for the Alternative Payment (AP) Programs, and CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2, and 3 as reported by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles; and for CalWORKs Child Care Stage 1 as reported by the Department of Public Social Services.

ⁱⁱ Current average enrollments reported by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (AP, CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2, and 3); and CDE CATS report (August 2009); DCFS enrollment estimated based on costs per child.

ⁱⁱⁱ CDE CATS report (August 2009).

^{iv} Estimate based on number of children served by AP, and CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2 and 3 including centers, Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs), and license-exempt individuals (assuming 30 to 50% of individuals are with a license-exempt caregiver).

^v Estimate based on numbers of children served in CCTR and CSPP full time by taking an average ratio of one provider/teacher per eight children; and estimate based on the children served in AP, CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2 and 3 who are not with a license-exempt caregiver, using an average ratio of one provider/teacher per eight children.

^{vi} Reports from individual agencies and calculations for AP and the CalWORKS Stages 1, 2, and 3 based on contract size.

^{vii} Number of children losing child care times 75% to account for multiple children in some families.

^{viii} Number of parents losing child care times an average annual gross household income of \$20,000 per year.

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Fact Sheet

Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL)

Connecting Families to Subsidized Child Care and Development Programs

Subsidized child development programs make it possible for parents to participate in the work force and continue their education and/or training. Young children who have the opportunity to participate in high quality child development programs tend to arrive at school with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.¹

In Los Angeles County, approximately 96,000 children receive such services and an additional 19,700 children are income eligible, but are waiting for a space to become available for them.

The Problem

Historically, child development programs serving low-income families maintained their own lists of families waiting for services. Families desperately seeking subsidized services so they could work added their names to multiple program waiting lists in the hope that they would eventually be contacted to enroll their children. Accordingly, it was impossible to accurately determine the need for the child development services due to duplicative listings of families and families eligible for and needing services, but not on any list.

The Solution

In 2005, the Education Code authorized and provided funding for a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) in each county. The CELs in each county consolidated the waiting lists maintained by their local California Department of Education (CDE)-contracted child development programs into one registry list of low-income, eligible families. Policies and procedures were established that included requiring the CDE-contracted programs to draw from their local CEL to enroll families as space and funding became available. While the CDE developed overall program guidelines, individual counties were allowed to design, maintain and administer their CEL.

In Los Angeles County, the LACEL serves multiple purposes, including:

- Providing a one-stop, one-time registry for families waiting to access a subsidized child development program and being connected to a program as funds and space become available.
- Conducting ongoing training and technical assistance to CDE-contracted program staff to facilitate timely enrollments of eligible families.
- Participating in outreach activities to families them to inform them of the LACEL, including how to register so they can connect to a subsidized program as funding and space become available.
- Counseling families on the array of child care and development programs to help parents make informed choices; preparing them for enrollment; and updating their information on the LACEL.

Local Results

- In 2009-10, 11,633 families with 9,608 children were enrolled in child development programs from the LACEL.
- As of June 11, 2010, 12,855 of families with 19,719 children are registered on the LACEL.

Families Waiting for Services by Age of Children and Need for Full-day or Part-Day				Families Enrolled by Age of Children in Full-day or Part-Day		
	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age
Number of Children						
▪ Full-day	6,998	3,840	2,218	1,284	1,127	1,878
▪ Part-day	1,464	2,167	1,903	992	2,970	1,357
▪ Not indicated	344	83	702			
<i>Total</i>	<i>8,806</i>	<i>6,090</i>	<i>4,823</i>	<i>2,276</i>	<i>4,097</i>	<i>3,235</i>

For more information on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL),
please contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-1664
or visit our Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

¹ Examples include *The High Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40* by Lawrence Schwienhart, www.highscope.org, *The Children of the Cost Quality and Outcome Study Go to School*, Carollee Howes, et al, and *Success in Early Intervention: The Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Arthur Reynolds.

Fact Sheet

Los Angeles County Investing in Early Educators Program (IEEP) *A Child Care Salary/ Retention Initiative Program*

Subsidized child development programs make it possible for parents to participate in the work force and continue their education and/or training. Young children who have the opportunity to participate in high quality child development programs tend to arrive at school with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.¹ Well educated and consistent early educators are critical to high quality programs.

In Los Angeles County, approximately 96,000 children receive such services and an additional 19,700 children are income eligible, but waiting for a space to become available for them.

The Problem

Child care workers are seriously underpaid. In California, the mean hourly wage for child care workers in 2008 was \$11.14 per hour or \$23,171 per year.² Local positions with comparable mean hourly wages include entry level Los Angeles County Parking Lot Attendants (\$11.52 per hour), or entry level Los Angeles County Animal Care Attendant I (\$14.62 per hour).³

Low salaries and inadequate benefits undermine recruitment efforts and fuel staff turnover. Well educated and consistent caregivers impact the quality of care children experience. The quality of child care and development experiences impact child outcomes, including school and life success.

The Solution

AB 212, introduced by Assembly Member Dion Aroner, was signed into law in 2000. This bill established the Child Care Salary/Retention Initiative for the purpose of increasing the retention of qualified early childhood educators working directly with young children in California Department of Education (CDE) contracted centers. While CDE developed overall program guidelines, individual counties were given the opportunity to tailor programs to meet local needs.

In Los Angeles County, the Investing in Early Educators Program (IEEP) is open to persons working directly with children in child development programs funded by CDE or programs where a majority of the children receive CDE subsidies. In addition, participants are required to hold a Child Development Permit and complete at least three college units in Child Development. Successful participants are able to earn cash stipends, which mitigate their low salaries.

Local Results

- Between July 2001 and July 2010, IEEP will award 17,511 stipends to early educators working in Los Angeles County.
 - In FY 2009-10, nearly 2,000 persons will earn cash stipends between \$1,000 and \$2,000
 - IEEP stipends will infuse over \$3 million into the local Los Angeles County economy
- Over the life of the program, IEEP will assist 1,054 persons in earning college degrees in child development or closely related fields (499 Associate of Arts degrees, 479 Bachelor of Arts degrees, and 76 graduate degrees).
- Research conducted in 2006 found that 63 percent of stipend recipients compared to 55 percent of non-recipients were more likely to still be working at the same center.⁴

- Ninety-seven percent of recipients felt better or much better able to work with children, families, and colleagues as a result of the course they took.⁵
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¹ Examples include *The High Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40* by Lawrence Schwienhart, www.highscope.org, *The Children of the Cost Quality and Outcome Study Go to School*, Carollee Howes, et al, and *Success in Early Intervention: The Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Arthur Reynolds.

² Source: Report by the Center for Child Care Workforce U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey: Occupational Earnings in the United States, 2008. www.bls.gov/ncs/ncswage2008.htm.

³ LA County Salary and Class Listing, February 2010.

⁴ *Final Report for the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program*, prepared by ORC Macro, 2006, p. 3.

⁵ *Final Report for the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program*, prepared by ORC Macro, 2006, p. 3.

For additional information on the Investing in Early Educators Program,
contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-4103
or visit www.childcare.lacounty.gov

Fact Sheet
Local Planning Council
A Community Connector and Capacity Builder for Child Development Services

Local Planning Councils (LPCs) were developed in each county in 1996-97 as a component of the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, which was created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. In requiring the LPCs, the federal government recognized the importance of establishing independent, diversified groups who could quantify the need for child development services and determine which areas within each county have the greatest need for subsidized care. Only LPCs have been charged with collaborating with subsidized and non-subsidized child development providers, county welfare departments and human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, integrated child and family service councils, tribal councils, local and state children and families commissions, parent organizations, Early Start family resource centers, local child care resource and referral programs, and other local stakeholders to build the local child development infrastructure.

Responding to these foundational requirements, each LPC conducts periodic countywide needs assessments that consider the child development needs of all families and identifies gaps for both low income families and families who can and do use market rate child development services. Each LPC has conducted research to identify geographic priorities for the limited funding available for subsidized child development used by the California Department of Education (CDE) and by local agencies and organizations in expanding child development opportunities.

Creating Links and Maximizing Resources

Since inception, LPCs have become robust catalysts for connection, collaboration, and coordination among historically isolated programs, services, and stakeholders. This ability to connect and collaborate is at the heart of the success of LPCs. Funding for LPCs amounts to only \$6.6 million statewide from the Quality improvement Plan. However, LPCs have leveraged significant resources from other sources to enhance and expand the child development system in each county through quality improvement activities, training, workforce development, and outreach to underserved populations.

The LPCs have developed comprehensive plans that address the specific conditions in their respective counties, as well as more general issues that impact the availability, accessibility, and quality of child development services. Implementation of the plans engages many players and stakeholders in each county thus multiplying the impact of the LPC.

LPCs as Partners with CDE within Our Local Communities

The LPCs are critical partners with the CDE by coordinating statewide efforts at the community level.

- LPCs enable other CDE-contracted programs to stretch their reach and effectiveness by promoting, coordinating, and hosting California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) trainings, WestEd: Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) trainings, and more.

- When CDE was authorized to pilot a new strategy called the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds designed to reduce the amount of under-earned funds from CDE child development contractors, it turned to the LPCs to coordinate the pilot in each county. During the pilot year, the LPC for Los Angeles County (e.g. Child Care Planning Committee), coordinated the reallocation of \$2 million for child development services that otherwise would have gone unused and returned to the State.
- CDE field staff consult with LPC coordinators when CDE contractors request changes in service priorities so that the Sacramento based staff will have an accurate picture of local conditions and factors.
- LPC Coordinators developed the guidelines for determining geographic funding priorities, which was authorized by the CDE and is now uniformly used in each county. The LPC Coordinators are now developing a uniform needs assessment process so that CDE can aggregate data submitted by each county into a statewide assessment of need and capacity.

Incubators of Change

LPCs are often in a position to test new strategies and initiatives locally that can be implemented statewide. For example, in Los Angeles County:

- The LPC has facilitated linkages among Head Start, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Probation Department to ensure that more children of probation families and families in the child welfare system are successfully enrolled in and receive the benefit of Head Start services.
- The LPC organized a major forum of family child care providers to hear about and provide input into the development of the Early Learning Quality Improvement System in support of CDE's efforts to ensure broad based input. The forum was conducted in English, Spanish and Chinese and became a model for LPCs across the state.
- The LPC developed a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) long before the State legislation was passed mandating the development of a QRIS. The committee's work contributed to the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP).

California is rich in services, programs, initiatives and supports as part of its diversified child development system. However, there has been little attention paid to optimal utilization of all of these resources. Efforts of coordinating and connecting the components of the child development system in a meaningful way and leveraging other stakeholders and support are a direct result of the work of the LPC.

For more information on Local Planning Councils
or the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee,
please contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-4103 or
go to our Website at www.childcare.lacounty.gov